

ABSTRACT**“Pardon” today : a religious festivity in Brittany****Mayumi FURUKAWA**

This is a detailed description of the catholic religious festivity, called "Pardon", which I saw in the summer 2002 in a small parish of Brittany, in the northwest of France.

Pardon had once been celebrated throughout France, however, nowadays one can see it only in Brittany. People usually wear very beautiful local costumes on the day and participate in a procession with banners, cross, and the statue of the saint for the parish. This is also a day when people ask for pardon for their sins. Pardon attracts a lot of tourists as well as pilgrims. In Grand Pardon more than ten thousands people attend it.

I had a chance to observe three pardons, Sainte Anne d'Auray, Plogoff, and Fouesnant. They differ very much in scale, place of the festivity, contents, the number of participants and so on. As for costumes, of which I had expected to see many, I saw few except in the parish of Fouesnant where I stayed for almost the whole day and had a chance to follow the course of the festivity. In this paper I have therefore introduced Fouesnant as an example of a parish.

The findings of Fouesnant Pardon are as follows. Those who wear local costumes took part in the procession and the dance program which was scheduled to be performed after mass. The pardon festivity has much to do with Breton identity, for example, performing dances and music, serving breton cakes, drinks and dishes. Observing this, I have also learned that people in Fouesnant try to make their pardon more popular with among non-parish people including foreign tourists.